Effect of the horizontal panning on sense of presence in threedimensional audio system based on multiple vertical panning

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# Multiple Vertical Panning (MVP) method

- Multiple "vertically panned loudspeakers" are placed at the upper and lower sides of the screen
  - 2 loudspeakers are placed at upper and lower sides of sound image positions
- Sound is played by the "vertical panning"
  - Viewers perceive a sound image between vertically panned loudspeakers
  - Multiple viewers can simultaneously feel the sound images at the position of visual objects



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# Aim of Study

- MVP method in our previous studies
  - The localized performance is correct in the audiovisual presentation
  - The number of loudspeakers can be reduced to ten
- Teleconference system
  - Microphones can't be placed at the neighborhood of 
    sound sources
- Hyperdirectional microphone array is designed
  - Horizontal panning is added since neighboring microphones simultaneously record a sound

Hyperdirectional

Microphone

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# The effect of horizontal panning is evaluated by two audio-visual experiments

# **Environment (Experiment 1)**

- Conference room
  - Reverberation time
    - 402 ms
  - Background noise
    - 38 dBA
  - 82 loudspeakers
    - 41(upper), 41(lower)
  - 4 viewing positions
  - Sound pressure level
    - About 70 dBA

Front View





#### Cross-sectional View



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# **Condition (Experiment 1)**

- 3D video (5 seconds)
  - Yellow oval
    - UFO that plays a sound is moving about the screen
  - Red circles
    - The sound of stars and balls is played when UFO touches them



# **Condition (Experiment 1)**

- Sound condition
- Reference conditions: (a), (e) and (f) (a) 4 Loudspeakers, (b) 4 Loudspeakers, (c) 6 Loudspeakers, No Horizontal Panning With Horizontal Panning With Horizontal Panning (d) 10 Loudspeakers, (e) 10 Loudspeakers, (f) 42 Loudspeakers No Horizontal Panning No Horizontal Panning With Horizontal Panning



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# Design (Experiment 1)

- Method
  - Scheffe's paired comparison
- Evaluation criterion
  - The degree of coincidence of location (star and ball)
  - The degree of coincidence of movement (UFO)
- Viewer
  - 9 persons
    - 5 males
    - 4 females
  - Age
    - 27-38

Test						
Evaluation 1			Evaluation 2			
OrderRandomized (Sound Location or Movement)						
Evaluation						
Session 1	Session 2		Ses	sion 3	Session 4	
OrderRandomized (4 Viewing Positions)						
Session						
Practice (6 trials)		Main (30 trials)				
Trial						
Sign Break	Stimulus	A	Break	Stimulu	s B	Answer
(0.1 s) (0.9 s)	(5 s)		(2 s)	(5 s	)	(4 s)

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# Procedure (Experiment 1)

- Instruction
  - Grade the degree of the coincidence of stimulus B
    - Reference: Stimulus A
    - Grade index: 7 steps
  - Be allowed to move their head and upper body freely while listening to a sound

Grade	Judgment
3	Very good
2	Fairly good
1	Little good
0	The same
-1	Little bad
2	Fairly bad
3	Very bad

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# Result (Experiment 1)

- Sound conditions (d) (Number: 10)
  - Viewers cannot discriminate the differences even if the horizontal panning is added
- Sound conditions (b) and (c) (Number: 4 & 6)

– The number of loudspeakers is not reduced from 10



# **Experiment 2**

- Experiment 1
  - loudspeakers were always placed at four vertex positions of the rectangle display
- Teleconference system
  - It is not necessary to place loudspeakers at four vertex positions of the rectangle display

 $\rightarrow$  Evaluate the effect of the sound conditions where loudspeakers are not placed at four vertex positions of the rectangle display

• The same as Experiment 1

– Environment, 3D video, Design and Procedure

# **Condition (Experiment 2)**

Sound condition



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#### Result (Experiment 2)

- Sound conditions (b) to (f)
  - There are no significant differences in all the sessions

# $\rightarrow$ The number of loudspeakers can be reduced to 4



# Conclusion

- Proposed 3D audio system (MVP method)
  - Audio-visual experiment was performed to evaluate the effect of the horizontal panning
- Experiment 1
  - The performance is maintained even if the horizontal panning was added
  - The number of loudspeakers is not reduced from 10
- Experiment 2
  - The number of loudspeakers can is reduced to 4
- Future work
  - Implementation of teleconference system
    - Construction of microphone array for MVP method
  - Performance evaluation of implemented system